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NOTES FROM PACIFIC COAST OBSERVATORIES.

ON THE RESEAU.

In my paper on "The Distortions of Photographic Films on Glass"[1] appeared, as No. 6 in the summary of results, the following paragraph:—

> 6. If the results obtained in this investigation for small plates be found to apply with equal force to larger plates, it will follow that the assumption which is the basis for the use of the reseau is not well founded. The assumptions involved, briefly stated, are as follows: First, general distortions exist; second, they differ in different parts of the plate; third, they may be assumed to be linear within the squares of the reseau, i. e., over a stretch of 5^{mm} or more. The supposed advantages of the reseau over the method of referring all the measures to a common center rest entirely upon the validity of these three assumptions. If the reseau can be dispensed with there will be a saving of the labor involved in making the large number of settings on the reseau-lines and in the reductions of the measurements.

In regard to this paragraph, I have had an interesting correspondence with Mr. HINKS, chief assistant in the observatory of Cambridge University. The subject appears to Mr. HINKS and me to be of sufficient general interest to warrant the publication of the principal points that were brought out by the discussion. Mr. HINKS agrees completely with my results on the nature and magnitude of the distortions in the gelatine film, the discussion being simply upon the question of the advisability of continuing to use the reseau, even though the original cause for its introduction has been shown to be non-existent. The present reason for continuing the use of the reseau is one of convenience purely. With the exception of a foot-note to Mr. HINKS's second letter, I shall confine myself to quotations from the correspondence.

S. ALBRECHT.

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[1] An abstract of this paper was printed in *Publications of the A. S. P.*, Vol. XIX, p. 205. 1907.